

Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

April 26, 2012

Description of Program

The Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife Partnership (MPFW) consists of 23 government and non-government organizations dedicated to delivering on-the-ground habitat conservation projects.

Wildlife Biologists from these organizations identify potential habitat projects and submit them to one of five habitat subcommittees for funding consideration.

MPFW was established over five years ago.

Members

Audubon, Delta Wildlife, DU, IPCO, MDAC, MDEQ, MDOT, MDWFP, MFC, MS Fish and Wildlife Foundation, MS Farm Bureau, MS Soil and Water Conservation Commission, MSU Extension Service, MS Wildlife Federation, MDWFP Foundation, MS NWTF, NRCS, QU, Tara Wildlife, TNC, USFWS, and Weyerhaeuser

Mission

- To establish, restore, improve, and protect fish and wildlife habitat on privately-owned lands through voluntary partnerships with agencies, organizations, corporations, and private individuals
- Accomplished through technical assistance and/or cost-share incentives.
- Cost-share incentives are paid for habitat improvement practices such as tree establishment, prescribed burning, water control structures, etc.

Goal

- To leverage resources of government agencies, private conservation organizations, corporations, local agencies, educational institutions, and private individuals who have the interest or the responsibility to work with private landowners to establish, restore, improve, and protect fish and wildlife habitat on private lands in Mississippi.

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Program Priority Habitat Types

- **Wetlands**
- **Uplands**
- **Aquatics (Rivers, Lakes, Streams)**
- **Native Prairie**
- **Longleaf Pine**

Wetlands

- Establishment
- Restoration
 - Bottomland hardwood reforestation
 - Hydrology (restore to condition prior to degradation)
- Enhancement
 - Timber stand improvement
 - Hydrology enhancement (manipulating hydrology to change/provide habitat, i.e.. Providing water control structures)
- Monitoring
- Information and Education

Wetland Project - Before



Wetland Project - After



Wetland Project - Before



Wetland Project - After



Uplands

- Establishment
- Ecologically appropriate restoration (Reforestation – mixed pine/hardwood vs. pine plantation)
- Enhancement (Prescribed burning, Timber stand improvement, etc.)
- Monitoring
- Information and Education



Upland Project - Before



Upland Project - After

Aquatics (Rivers, Lakes, Streams)

- Restoration (reestablish stream flow, riparian buffers, etc.)
- Enhancement (invasive weed control, fisheries management, etc.)
- Monitoring
- Information and Education



Aquatics Project - Before

Aquatics Project - After



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Native Prairie

- Establishment
- Restoration (reestablishment of native grasses, site preparation, etc.)
- Enhancement (prescribed burning, mowing, chemical application, etc.)
- Monitoring
- Information and Education

Prairie Project - Before



Photo by Wildlife Mississippi

Prairie Project - After



Photo by Wildlife Mississippi

Longleaf Pine

- Establishment
- Restoration (site preparation, reforestation, etc.)
- Enhancement (prescribed burning, hardwood removal, etc.)
- Monitoring
- Information and Education

Longleaf Project - Before



Longleaf Project - After



Longleaf Project - After



- Partners participating in the MPFW Partnership can direct their funding to a particular priority habitat group and/or a specific geographical location within a priority habitat group.
- Funds from partners are usually held by Mississippi Wildlife Federation who send payments directly to enrolled landowners or contractors once projects are completed.
- 100 % of MPFW funds go towards habitat implementation.
- MPFW is very flexible with how partners can contribute funds and how they are directed. This is why the Partnership is such an effective habitat delivery network in Mississippi.



Thank You

Questions?